AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) REPORT #1268 - NOV 30, 2001

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1268 with a release date of Friday, November 30th, 2001 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A enforcement issue involving a contest station and lots of news on ham radio in space are first on this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1268 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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ENFORCEMENT: SPLIT FREQUENCY OPERATION BRINGS INTERFERENCE WARNING NOTICE FROM THE FCC

If you are operating split frequency and another ham calls you on the phone to tell you that you are interfering with his QSO, listen to what he or she says. It could save you from getting a citation from the FCC. This advice comes from many operators after the FCC's chief ham radio rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth says he's letting stand a Warning Notice he sent to a Pennsylvania radio amateur after receiving allegations of deliberate interference that took place during a contest.

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Hollingsworth: "We reaffirmed our Warning Letter to Joseph Brue, K3NM, of Pennsylvania in the case of interference he caused when operating split on 40 meters during a recent contest."
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The background on this story is quite complicated and will take a few minutes to explain it in detail. This is because it is very important to any ham who operates spit frequency in a contest or while chasing D-X.

The issues involves Joseph Brue, K3NM. He was sent the Warning Notice on September 12th after a Louisiana ham named John King, K5PGW, officially complained about a September 9 incident on 40 meter SSB. King claims that K3NM was operating split mode on during the Worked All Europe Contest. King says that during part of that contest period he was in QSO with Roy Ezell, K9ROY, in Kentucky when K3NM came on frequency. King says that K3NM did not bother to ask if the frequency was clear before beginning to call C-Q contest.

King says that he and K9ROY attempted to contact the operator at K3NM and alert him about the QRM. Unfortunately. he was listening outside the US phone band. Since neither King or Ezell could reach K3NM by radio, K9ROY reverted to an older form of communication. He telephoned Brue, to let him know that his station was interfering with his contact and asking him to move. In fact, King claims that there were two calls made to K3NM but that station never did change frequency.

And here is where it all gets a bit more complex. You see, the person operating K3NM's station at the time of the incident was not Joseph Brue. Rather a guest in the person of the Matt Vanni, callsign LU9AY. And it was Vanni who first responded to the FCC. He said that he could not hear K5PGW or K9ROY. So, even though he acknowledged the phone calls, he continued operating the station on the same transmit frequency. He also told the FCC that he

always monitors his transmit frequency whenever he operates split frequency. Brue later confirmed Vanni's version of what happened to the FCC. But he also acknowledged receiving the two telephone calls from the complaining hams.

So why issue a warning letter? Hollingsworth explains it in the reaffirmation message itself. His key words to Brue are these:

"The fact remains, however, that both you and Vanni had notice, directly from the complainant operator in two separate telephone calls, that your station was indeed interfering with specific ongoing communications."

Hollingsworth added that based on the phone calls from Ezell that it was not good Amateur practice for the K3NM operators to ignore the complainant and continue operating the station. At least not without a good faith attempt at compromise or taking corrective action.

And the bottom line for all hams may be what Hollingsworth wrote in the original September 12th letter to Brue. There he said that Amateurs are responsible for taking steps to make sure they do not interfere with ongoing communications, and contest participants have no greater rights to any specific frequency than other hams. (RAIN, FCC)

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RADIO LAW: TACOMA BANS NON FCC CERTIFIED CB GEAR

Tacoma Washington may be the first city to prohibit Class D 11 meter C-B operators from using non-FCC certified transmitting equipment. Adopted last September 12th but only now becoming widely known, Tacoma City Ordinance 26851 amends Chapter 8.38 of their Municipal Code in two ways. First is Section 8.38.010 which directly prohibits use of non-approved radio equipment by CB’ers. And if a CB’er breaks the new law he or she is subject to Section

8.38.020. This makes using such a radio a misdemeanor punishable to a fine of up to $500, and/or up to 6 month imprisonment.

Tacoma enacted Ordinance 26851 based on an earlier amendment to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, which was adopted by Congress a couple of years ago. As this was a Congressional action, not an FCC action, any challenges by C-B operators to the new Tacoma local law would have to go through the federal courts. As far as we can determine, the new law is carefully crafted to affect only C-B operators and no other radio operators in the Tacoma area. (Various news sources)

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LEGAL ISSUES: ANTENNA LAWS WILL BITE SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEURS

Ham radio operators in South Africa have something new to worry about. Expensive antenna regulation and added costs for evaluating an antenna installation. Q-News Graham Kemp has the details:

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Following a lecture on Antenna regulation and planning, South African Clubs in many provinces have been urged to meet and appoint a mutual provincial

representative to work in this field.

Tim Ellam, a Telecommunications lawyer, sketched the situation in Canada but the hams in ZS land soon discovered they are worse off! Amateurs there could soon be paying in access of Rand 10 000 to have a scooping study done before submitting plans for approval.

That is the reason the SARL installed the CPAS committee, a body with members representing each province to monitor development so that timely intervention can put the case for Amateur Radio Towers. This was successfully accomplished in the KwaZulu-Natal.

CPAS now has KZN and Eastern Cape and Western Cape represented. Will the rest of the country wait till it is too late?

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According to Kemp, Tim Ellam put forward many useful suggestions and dealt extensively the South African situation. For our listeners in South Africa, C.P.A.S. itself is on e-mail at cpas@intekom.co.za (SARL via Q-News)

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BREAK 1

This is ham radio news coming to you from the United States of America. we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on great bulletin stations around the world, including the 145.21 MHz repeater serving Andover Minnesota.

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: EXPEDITION 4 CREW ON ITS WAY TO THE ISS

A new crew is headed to the International Space Station and could be there by the time this newscast goes to air. This time a Russian is in command of two Americans and all three have an interest in ham radio. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Roy Neal, K6DUE, gives us some insight into the Expedition 4 crew and what to expect while they are on board the I-S-S.

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The new crew board the International Space Station plan to work in some hamming between work sessions of their sixteen hour daily schedule. Astronauts Dan Bursch and Carl Walz, both Flight Engineers are KD5PNU and KC5TIE and their commander, Cosmonaut Yuri Onufrienko once spent 193 days on the Mir Space Station and was on the radio a lot.

They plan to use NA1SS, the amateur station on board the ISS, whenever they get a chance. If they come close to the records set by Frank Culbertson and Susan Helms of the last two station crews, it will be surprising. That’s because they have a very ambitious work schedule.

Among other things, they are charged with delivering and installing a huge 356 foot long girder-like truss. They plan at least eight space walks, two of

which will be used to install new ham radio antennas outside the space stations crew quarters.

Add a few such things as changing out the stations command and control computers with new, solid state memory units and playing host to two visiting shuttle flights and a Russian Progress taxi mission, plus more than 400 hours of carrying out scientific experiments, and you begin to get the idea. When the Expedition 4 crew comes back to Earth next May..they'll need a rest. Meanwhile, we hams look forward to at least a few contacts with them on 2 meters, via NA1SS, the ham radio station on board.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Roy Neal. K6DUE.

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A new crew is not the only ham radio change taking place on board the International Space Station. According to ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO the new ham radio antenna system mentioned in Roy's report has been approved for flight and manifested to be flown on the STS-108 flight. Once installed around the perimeter of the Russian Service Module early next year, the new I-S-S ham radio antennas will cover the H-F, VHF, UHF and microwave bands up to 2.4 Gigahertz.

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT THANKS DONAHUE

Newly elected ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU, has received his first award. In fact he got it before the ballots had even been counted.

The recognition came at the recent 2001 AMSAT Symposium awards which included a presentation to in grateful appreciation for work as the ARRL Liaison for the event. W4RU's dedicated service and hard work in this role was also well noted.

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CONVENTIONS AND HAMFESTS: RSGB STOPS ORGANIZING TRADE SHOWS

The Radio Society of Great Britain says that its no longer going to organize ham radio trade shows. Instead it will participate at conventions organized on a local level. That a major change in policy as we hear from Jeramy Boot, G4NJH:

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With the continuing success of the RSGB Regional organization it is becoming possible for the RSGB to have a presence at an increasing number of amateur radio events, rallies and trade shows around the country. In view of this enhanced activity, the RSGB has decided that it will no longer itself organize amateur radio trade shows.

The RSGB believes that there is a need for more convention-style meetings where radio amateurs can discuss new techniques and other innovations in seminar-like events and that such events represent a better use of the RSGB's resources.

Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

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In other words, the moneys saved can go into other projects aimed at furthering the cause of ham radio in the U-K. (RSGB)

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CONVENTIONS AND HAMFESTS: GREENFIELD INDIANA

Things are a lot better here in the USA where there's a hamfest almost every weekend. And Brad Hewson KB9VZL tells Amateur Radio Newsline that the Hancock County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest December 9th from 8 am to 2 p.m. It all happens at the Greenfield Indiana at the Greenfield Central High School with talk-in on the 145.33 MHz W9ATG repeater. For more information please contact Brad by e-mail to kb9vzl@excite.com. (KB9VZL)

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CONVENTIONS AND HAMFESTS: HAM RADIO UNIVERSITY 2002

New Yorkers attention. Mark down Sunday, January 20, 2002, for the next Ham Radio University session. The first 2002 session will be a part of the ARRL's New York City and Long Island Section Convention. Sponsored by the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, both events will be held at the Babylon Town Hall Annex in North Babylon, Long Island. Ham Radio University 2002 will be a technical education forum featuring twenty one-hour presentations along with special forums geared to the non-ham as well as the experienced Amateur Radio operator. The focus will be hands on, with many demonstrations including emergency communications. For more information, contact Chairman Phil Lewis N2MUN or New York City Long Island Section Manager George Tranos, N2GA at their callbook address. (K2DO)

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RADIO AT WAR: SHORTWAVE RETURNS TO AFGHANISTAN

A new shortwave radio station is broadcasting to Afghanistan. According to the Media Network e-newsletter, the arrival of Radio Voice of Afghanistan seemed to surprise just about everyone except those behind it. Who are they? As of airtime, they have chosen not to reveal their identity.

It was Glenn Hauser's DX Listening Digest that broke the news to the world. Then a Mexican listener to Radio Netherlands Spanish service, Adolfo Murrieta Gonzlez, claimed credit for the first logging on November 17th. Clandestine Radio Watch was soon on the chase as well with Takuya Hirayama of it's Japan Bureau listening in. Hirayama understands Pashto and Dari. He wrote a summary of the broadcast on November 22nd. Read more in the Media Network Afghanistan media dossier at http://www.rnw.nl/realradio/html/afghanistan.html. If you want to listen to the audio sample go to http://www.omroep.nl/cgi-bin/streams?/rnw/medianetwork/rvoa011123.rm (Media Network)

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RADIO IN THE USA: CLEAR CHANNEL BUYING ACKERLY

The United States largest radio broadcaster, is getting a lot bigger. This as Clear Channel Communications Inc., announces that it is buying the Ackerley Group, which owns billboards and other outdoor advertising as well as radio and television stations.

Clear Channel, operates about 1,180 radio and 18 TV stations in the United States, already is involved in events promotion and billboard advertising. It is paying about $500 million in stock to acquire Ackerly. (Broadcast Weekly)

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NOAA WEATHER RADIO: CRAIG AND DONNA NOT MUCH BETTER THAN PERFECT PAUL

Two well respected broadcasters who also happen to be ham radio operators have voiced their opinions on the new voices tapped by the National Weather Service to replace the not so perfect -- Perfect Paul. For those not aware, Perfect Paul is the nickname given to that mechanical sounding computerized voice that currently voices NOAA Weather Radio. Take a listen:

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Perfect Paul Audio Here
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The closest thing to it our world of Amateur Radio are the automated voices heard on many repeaters. You know, those announcements that say this is the W-A-3-such and such repeater. The ones that users are always complaining about.

In the case of Perfect Paul, the NOAA Radio received so many complaints that he will soon be replaced by two new and far less computer sounding voices named Craig and Donna. This came after months of evaluating voice technologies and receiving public input, including over 19,000 Internet survey comments. Based on this input, NOAA awarded Siemens Information and Communication Network a $633,615 contract for the voice improvement software product, known as Speechify. Siemens teamed with SpeechWorks International of Boston to provide software that combines phonetic sounds with natural language modeling. Heres a sample:

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Audio Here
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A lot better than Perfect Paul? Some say yes but Richard Rudman, W6TIA, is not that enthusiastic. Rudman is the chairman of the EAS National Advisory Committee and the Los Angeles County local emergency committee. He is quoted in the November 21st issue of the trade publication Radio World as saying he wished that the committee choosing the new voices for NOAA Weather Radio would have waited for something better to come along. W6TIA says that the new voices chosen are an improvement, but still have major shortcomings with regard to quality and inflection issues that bother him.

Also quoted in the Radio World article is Chris Boone, WB5ITT. He says that

the voices still sound computer-like and canned. Boone says he can hear the digital artifacts in them and would not put them on a broadcast station. Even so, the computerized Craig and Donna would be a welcome change to the automatic I-D voices used on most ham radio repeaters today. (Radio World, NOAA, NWS, others)

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BREAK 2

By telephone, satellite and the World Wide Web, we are the amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world at our only official website - www.arnewsline.org.

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HAM RADIO ON THE BOOKSHELF: TUNE IN THE UNIVERSE

“Tune In The Universe” is a new book on CD-ROM by SETI League Director H. Paul Shuch, N6TX. The book is unique in that it is both interactive with the reader and because it can be read using any web browser. No special reader software is required.

Why a book now? N6TX tells Amateur Radio Newsline that its kind of overdue:

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Shuch: “Ive been on the lecture circuit for SETI for the past seven years and everywhere I go people ask if I have a book about all of this. Well, we have a website but not everybody has an Internet connection and some other peoples download speeds are a bit slow. So I took the best material from seven years of running the SETI League and tried to put it together in one convenient place.”
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And that’s exactly what Dr. Shuch has done. Called a ham radio operators guide to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, the book is divided into six sections that cover every aspect of ham radio’s involvement in SETI as well as the ongoing search itself. Also included are a mix of photos and even some songs that Dr. Shuch says should educate as well as entertain. Why music you ask? N6TX says that its a fun way to learn about anything:

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Shuch: “As any teacher knows, memory is enhanced and multiple learning styles are accommodated by invoking as many different sensory pathways as possible. That is, we educators try to stimulate the students auditory, visual and tactile systems all at once to maximize the learning experience. Why do you think we are always writing on a chalk-board and asking you to take notes while we drone on in a monotone?

Somewhere along the line in my teaching career I figured out that music was another sensory pathway worth stimulating. And, just maybe would make my lectures a tad less monotonous. So I began introducing songs as learning aids.

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Tune In The Universe" is published by the American Radio Relay League and is priced at under $25. For more information visit the League's website at www.arrl.org. More about the SETI League is also to be found in cyberspace. It's at www.setileague.org. (N6TX, SETI League, ARNewsline(tm))

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HAM RADIO AND EDUCATION: FAR ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS

Speaking of education, the Foundation for Amateur Radio, in Washington, D.C. says that it plans to administer 62 scholarships for the 2002 through 2003 academic year. The foundation, which is made up of more than seventy-five Amateur Radio Clubs fully funds seven of these scholarships using the income from grants and its annual hamfest. The remaining fifty-five are administered without cost to the donors. For more information or an application, please contact the F-A-R Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, Maryland. The zipcode is 20783. You can also check the website at www.amateurradio-far.org (FAR elease)

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HAM RADIO ON THE INTERNET: NEW FLYING HAMS REMAILER

Joe Della Barba, N3HGB says that he has started a new Internet mailing list for anyone interested in airmobile ham radio. In a web posting, Joe says that he has been operating 2 meter airmobile for years now and finds it to be lot of fun. Joe notes that A-P-R-S adds a whole new dimension to airmobile operations these days as well. To become a part of that discussion and lots more you sign up by sending an e-mail to cqairmobile-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. (CQAIRMOBILE)

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INTERNATIONAL - CANADA: DISABLED EXAMS

On the international front, word that an Industry Canada document pertaining to the examination of disabled candidates will be ready for incorporation into rules by January 31, 2002. This document, based on a proposal from Radio Amateurs of Canada, will provide guidance to medical doctors when asked to justify an exemption for disabled candidates for the Canadian Amateur Radio examination process. (RAC)

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INTERNATIONAL NEW ZEALAND: RADIO EDUCATION TRUST

Amateur Radio Newsline's South Pacific Bureau correspondent Jim Meachan, ZL2BHF reports that a charitable foundation called the NZART Radioscience Education Trust, founded in January 1998 is taking root. Jim explains that the trust was formed to help and encourage persons wishing to further their education in the science of radio. ZL2BHF says that the trust is financed from income produced from invested donations. More information can be obtained from the NZART web page at http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/nzart/trustweb.html (NZART)

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DX

In the DX department, K5OE reports that OM5CM in the Slovak Republic has been active the AMSAT Oscar 10 satellite. Also, ZS2ACP in South Africa recently created a weekend pile-up on
AO-40, operating when both Europe and North America were in his window. (GB2RS)

Meantime, a little bit lower in frequency, well, take a listen:

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6 m audio here
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That was N0JK portable HC8 working the world the weekend of November 24th. And he was not the only D-X being heard. The VHF Reflector was loaded with reports from around the world of unexpected F 2 openings as more and more hams buy radio gear and discover the magic of the Magic Band. (VHF Reflector - audio supplied by KC6WFS)

And an Internet posting from the ARRL's Wayne Mills N7NG says that an operation from war torn Afghanistan has been approved for DXCC credit. Mills post says that The DXCC Desk has received acceptable documentation for YA5T operated by ON4WW, ON6TT, S53R or SM7PKK. The documentation is for QSOs made November 20, 2001 and after. No other callsigns or operations have been approved as of this date. (VHF Reflector, OPDX, other DX remailers)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A REPEATER CONTACT CONTEST?

And finally this week, while we here in the United States frown on contesters interfering with repeater contacts, down-under its a different story. Can you believe that Australia has a contest where only contacts made over repeaters count toward the final score? Well they do and Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, is back again with the details:

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Westlakes unique CQ Repeater Contest where amateurs are encouraged to put a little life into usually quiet repeaters. The aim of all contests is to promote good will between amateurs and to encourage on air activity. The big difference with this CQ Repeater contest is that all contacts MUST be made on repeaters.

The rules have been even simpler. Contest numbers do not have to be exchanged - just keep a record of the station spoken to and on which repeater and at what time the contact was made.

Contest Period is from 0001 local from 1st of January 2002 to 2359 local on the 7th January. The bands are 10 Meters, 6 Meters, 2 Meters and 70 centimeters. The mode is FM only ad scoring is 1 point for each contact. It doesn't get any simpler than that!

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, of Q-News Australia.

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Could such a contest be successful in North America? Maybe, but we do not know of any repeater owners who really want to find out. (Q-News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at
Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

All amateurs Novice through Extra are eligible. Awards are decided by the Awards Committee, based partially upon the information received. Magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, videos and the like are appreciated but cannot be returned. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2002. Nominations can be submitted by US Mail to Post Office Box 964, Dayton Ohio 45401 or by completing the convenient e-form on the web at www.hamvention.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying God Bless America, 73, and we thank you for listening."
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